

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the above amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-12 are currently pending. Claim 4, 6, 9, and 10 have been amended; and Claims 3 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 5, 7, 8 and 12 were indicated as allowable; previously restricted Claims 2, 4, 6, 9-11, and 13 were rejoined and fully examined for patentability; and Claims 4, 10 and 13 were objected to because of informalities. Accordingly, prosecution on the merits was closed in accordance with the practice under Ex Parte Quayle.

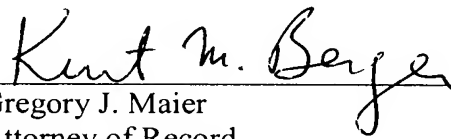
Regarding dependent Claims 4 and 10, these claims have been amended to address the informalities set forth in the Office Action. Further, Claim 13 has been cancelled. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to Claims 4, 10, and 13 have been rendered moot by the present amendment.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) are allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejections are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kurt M. Berger", is written over a horizontal line.

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